



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

## **- For Immediate Release -**

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

### **Arizona Department of Public Safety makes several large narcotic seizures during routine traffic stops and other investigations in less than a week.**

On Dec. 12, 2008, at about 10:15 a.m. an Arizona Department of Public Safety officer (DPS) stopped a rented SUV on Interstate 40 at milepost 205 (near Flagstaff) for a traffic violation. A subsequent search of the vehicle turned up between **six and seven liters of Codeine cough medicine. Some of the containers appeared to look like they were stolen from a pharmacy, while others may have been obtained through prescription fraud. Two suspects were arrested.**

On Dec. 16, 2008, a collaborative enforcement effort involving GIITEM (Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission) executed a search warrant at 825 S. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave in Phoenix. **Seven suspects were arrested, four were undocumented immigrants. Seized was ten grams of heroin, seven grams of marijuana, one gram of cocaine, one shotgun, one handgun and \$1300.**

On Dec. 15, 2008, at about 6:17 p.m. on Interstate 10 at milepost 21 westbound (near Quartzsite) a DPS officer made a traffic stop on a 2004 Chevrolet Impala for an equipment violation. **A search of the vehicle revealed 230.9 pounds of marijuana found in the trunk. \$695.12 was also seized. One suspect was arrested and booked into the La Paz County Jail.**

On Dec. 15, 2008, at about 6:08 p.m. a DPS officer stopped a commercial vehicle on Gila Ridge Road and Avenue 3E for an equipment violation. **A search of the trailer revealed 787 pounds of marijuana. The driver was arrested.**

**\*photos available on request\***

“When you consider that most of these drug seizures occurred on the same day on different highways just minutes apart, you can see the scope of the problem we’re dealing with in Arizona. DPS officers are always on the alert for drug couriers and are dedicated to putting them out of business,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

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